

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application O b P E Rickey D. Hart et al.  
Serial No.: 09/875,588  
Filing Date: 06/06/01  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND  
METHOD FOR USING THE SAME  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Julian W. Woo  
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicant hereby petitions for a two (2) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding OFFICIAL ACTION mailed July 1, 2003 with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from October 1, 2003 to December 1, 2003.

A check in the amount of \$210.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of a Small Entity status.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON:

November 21, 2003

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Scott R. Foster

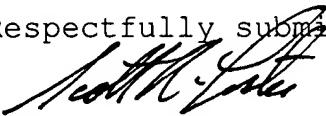
(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE)

November 21, 2003

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

  
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